GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1625
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2006
USE OF MERCURY
Madhwaraj Smt. Manorama

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the advanced countries have banned the use of mercury which is scientifically considered to contain highly toxic substances of hazardous nature;

(b) if so, whether import of mercury in India has more than doubled in the past five years, as India has become the largest user of mercury;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Parad Shivlings which are traded freely and installed at homes for worship contain more than 30 per cent mercury by weight;

(e) if so, whether India proposes to have a re-look on this issue and initiate steps to phase out mercury consumption in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) No, Sir.

(b)&(c) A decreasing trend has been observed in the import of mercury in India since the year 2003-04.

(d) No conclusive data on mercury content in Parad Shivlings are available.

(e)to(g) No such proposal is under consideration of this Ministry as no conclusive data on adverse impacts on human health due to Parad Shivlings are available.